Inflight telephone facility in Indian Airlines an dAir India

356. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Airways have introduced an inflight telephone service in their Boeing-747 flights;

(b) whether such inflight telephones are also available on some airlines in U.S.A.; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to introduce similar service in Air India and Indian Airlines for the convenience of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) It is understood that the British Airways are in the process of installing telephones in some of their Jumbo aircraft on a trial basis. This facility would enable the passengers to make calls while on board the aircraft. The factural details are, however, not known to the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No. Sir.

Introduction of Professor's Grade in Delhi Colleges

357. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the demand of the Delhi University teachers for introducing Professor's grade in the consultant colleges;

(b) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in the matter;

(c) what are the difficulties in expediting a decision on this demand;

(d) whether Government propose to accept the above demand; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (e) The demand of DUTA for institution of a Professor's Grade in Colleges is a major departure from the pattern of staffing presently obtaining throughout the country. Institution of such a Grade only in Colleges in Delhi would generate a demand for instituting similar grades in Colleges throughout the country. The University Grants Commission has, therefore, referred the matter to the R. C. Mehotra Committee which is looking into the pay scales of teachers in University and colleges and their avenues of promotion.

Hike in accompanied luggage charges

358. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHR SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accompanies luggage charges for the passengers have been raised by the railways recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and since when the new charges have become effective; and

(c) what are the reasons for increasing the rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RALWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The basic rate for accompanied luggage has not been raised. However, with effect from 1-2-1986, the penalty charges and minimum charges on unbooked or partially booked luggage have been increased as under:

(1) When a passenger is detected with unbooked or partially booked luggage than the free allowance but within the marginal allowance, he will be charged for the weight in excess of the free allowance subject to a minimum of Rs. 50.

(2) When a passenger is detected with unbooked or partially booked luggage more than the free allowance and exceeding the marginal allowance, the penalty charge will be six times the normal tariff rate subject to a minimum of Rs. 50.

(3) When a passenger is detected with unbooked or partially booked luggage more than the maximum quantity of luggage that can be carried inside the compartment, the penalty charges will be six times at normal tariff rate subject to a minimum of Rs. 50.

Preservation of Jantar Mantar at Jaipur and New Delhi

359. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times of the 23rd November, 1985 under the caption 'Jantar Mantar ruined beyond repairs' regarding the deplorable condition of the Jantar Mantar monuments in New Delhi and Jaipur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to preserve these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) The Hindu, Madras dated 23-11-85 published a report under the caption "Jantar Mantar ruined beyond repairs" alleging that Jantar Mantar at Delhi is in a bad state of preservation. There is no reference to the bad state of preservation of Jantar Mantar at Jaipur in that report.

(b) The Jantar Mantar monument complex in Delhi which is under Central protection has been kept in a good state of repair and preserved as an emblem of Indian Astronomical Science in the 18th Century. The environment around the monument complex is maintained by horticultural operations and the fountains in the main central trough have been activated. The monuments are also floodlit. Jantar Mantar at jaipur is maintained as a monument by the Government of Rajasthan.

Direct air service between Delhi and Madras

360. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Goernment's consideration to start direct air service between Madras and Delhi;

(b) if so, by when the service is likely to be commenced; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines will start a direct non-stop service between Delhi and Madras after the induction, in its fleet, of additional aircraft capacity.

Growth in traffic of Air India

361. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the targeted growth in the traffic of Air India during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the same has been achieved;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the target of growth in traffic of Air India during the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) During the mid term appraisal of